

HEAD LINES

Marblehead Sail & Power Squadron -- District 18
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

Volume 25 Issue 7
March 2008

From the Helm

Writing this message in mid-February with a current weather forecast of snow/sleet/freezing rain, it is hard to believe that calendar spring is only five weeks away. But even though March in New England can be wintry, the sun will be higher, the days will be longer, and the boating season will not seem so distant!

Many thanks to all who made the February 10 Change of Command a most enjoyable event. Our new Bridge was installed, as reported elsewhere in this issue, and all in attendance were enthralled by Dave and Carolyn Johnson's presentation of their cruise down the east coast to Miami and then crossing the Gulf Stream for a long stay in the Bahama Islands chain.

In some brief remarks commenting on the year ahead for MSPS, I reflected on the objectives of the United States Power Squadrons, of which we are a key unit. During the year ahead, I urge that each of us be guided by these objectives, using them as goals for our activities over the next twelve months:

1. We are established as a boating organization comprised of "congenial persons of good character, having a common love and appreciation of yachting." As with any organization, our membership ebbs and flows. I ask all of us to be mindful of opportunities to introduce family, friends and acquaintances to the advantages of membership in our Squadron.
2. MSPS provides a "practical means to foster fraternal and social relationships among its members interested in yachting." It would be great to see

more attendance at our General Meetings, which offer enjoyable socializing, fellowship and the opportunity to network regarding our common love of boating.

3. A most important objective, at the heart of our national organization of over 40,000 members, is the encouragement and promotion of "a high amateur standard of skill in the handling and navigation of yachts, power and sail; the study of the science and art of navigation, seamanship and small boat handling; and the stimulation of members to increase their knowledge of and skill in yachting through instruction and self education." MSPS has done a fine job of achieving these goals over the many decades since we were chartered in 1940, providing quality instruction in courses for the public and for our members, delivered at a very modest cost by dedicated, volunteer Certified Instructors. It will be to the interest of all of us who are MSPS members to increase our own level of expertise by taking one or more of the courses or seminars that will be offered in the months ahead, and encouraging those who are not yet members to register for our basic Squadron Boating Course.

Just two days after the Change of Watch activities, I chaired my first monthly meeting of the Executive Committee as Commander. Squadron Education Officer Robere Sant Fournier reported that our new Squadron Boating Course begins on February 13 at Marblehead High School, and we are anticipating a class of about 25 students in this basic course open to the public. Last Saturday,



February 9 a full room of 53 attendees from our Squadron and the Blue Water Sailing Club learned a great deal of the science behind effective Sail Trim in a seminar conducted by one of our very active members, Jose Venegas.

More courses and seminars for our members and the public are being planned. Information is always available through our Website as well as this newsletter. Social activities will be on the calendar as well, starting with a March 13 presentation at the Marblehead Yacht Club by our own Ed Wolfe on fishing in our local waters. I will look forward to meeting many of our members at these and other meetings that will be announced throughout the year.

Yours for safe and happy boating,

Dan Shea

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Upcoming Events

March General Meeting, Thursday,
March 13 @ 7:00 PM Marblehead Yacht
Club

April General Meeting Thursday, April 17

Squadron Dinner Meeting: Corinthian
Yacht Club, Friday, May 30, Speaker:
Steve Gagin on diving to the Titanic

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Head Lines

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preceding the issue date. Send articles,
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SEO Message

Robere Sant Fournier, P

There was a well loved Captain out of old Salem during the China tea trade days. His First Mate was always puzzled. Before every voyage this Captain would go to the ship's safe, open it, read from a small piece of paper. Shortly there after word would be given to take in the lines and get underway. Finally, one day, the First Mate asked him what was it with the safe and the paper he read before proceeding to sea. The Captain explained that written on the paper was the following: Port is left, Starboard is right!

There is no doubt we have a lot of information presented to us in the course of our boating, some times this can be quite overwhelming, sometimes the "toys" get the better of us. For instance, GPS is something I am very interested in procuring and using. I image from all the talk around me and watching people use it, that it would make life very easy in a small cockpit of a pitching boat. Listen to the radio, skippers freely swap waypoints and can give you arrival times to the second.

This appeals to me, but there is something that is so very basic to all this, the traditional chart. Even the GPS will display as much or as little of the chart as you wish. However this seems to be occluded by the desire to link all the waypoints in a logical fashion. Meanwhile, the chart has a wealth of information that probably would take several large books to reveal. Check out how many bytes an average chart requires when you pop the CD or other device into your GPS receiver.

We all know that electronics and sea water don't mix. Did you know that this year we are scheduled to encounter heightened sunspot activity? And yes, you are right, this is going to disrupt GPS reception at unpredictable times. And who are you going to call when this happens? Hopefully you will consult an old friend, the chart. This reminds me, on Saturday, 5th April, a seminar on chart reading will be held at Abbot Library. I think you will be very interested to be once again acquainted with friendly and some not so friendly symbols all on a media that won't disappear because you pressed the wrong button. Come and join us in this most nautical tradition.

Now, why am I standing in front of a safe?

Member Courses

Wait a minute.....

Mike Merriman, JN

As I write this we're in the midst of a horrendous rain storm with strong gusty winds. In the past I had no real clue what caused the weather, or what was to follow. However I remembered the adage "If you don't like the weather in New England – wait a minute".

I and a large number of other members from the Marblehead and Beverly squadrons have been meeting for the past few weeks at the Jubilee Yacht Club to study the USPS Weather course. The goal of the course is to furnish basic weather knowledge for safer, and more enjoyable boating. As we learn more we'll be able to make weather predictions based upon observations of the sky, upon barometer and wind information, as well as weather data provided by maps, satellite images, and radio and TV broadcasts.

Rather than the typical USPS student manual, the primary text is *The Weather Book* from USA Today with supplemental USPS homework questions and exams. Overall, the structure of the book is very readable and presented using familiar USA Today graphics. Of course, there's no getting away from USPS tests, so we're all studying for the first of two tests which will cover the Effects of Heat and Cold, Wind and Pressure, Storms and Fronts, Rain, Humidity and Fog and finally Floods, Droughts, and Winter Precipitation. The final test will build on these concepts and address Thunderstorms and Tornados, Tropical Weather, Atmosphere and Clouds, Forecasting and Climate.

Even though it's raining at the moment, I now know that a cold front is sweeping through and if I just wait a bit, the weather will clear.



Participants in the Weather Class (clockwise from left) David Lewis, Bob Olenio, Anne Olenio, Louis Schoenthal, Tom McLaughlin, Bernie Coyne (instructor), John Bedrossian (instructor), Gail Shlansky, Robere Sant Fournier, Lois Aufiero. Missing: Brendan Coyle, Janet Merriman, Mike Merriman.

Seminars

How to Read a Chart

Saturday, April 5, 2008, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Abbot Public Library - Auditorium - 235 Pleasant Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

This seminar furthers boating safety by teaching the details of the marine chart as a most valuable tool for anyone venturing out on the ocean.

INSTRUCTORS: Steve Jerome and Dan Himes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FEES: A fee of \$30.00 is charged to cover costs of teaching manuals, power-point slides and other materials. Pre-registration and payment is requested.

2007 Educational Update

Mike Merriman, JN

Each year to coincide with our Change of Watch each officer reports on the results from the past year. I'm happy to report that in 2007 we awarded the following grades:

Seamanship	8
Piloting	7
Advanced Piloting	3
Engine Maintenance	8
Marine Electronics	8
Instructor Development	3

Additionally we had a total of 40 people pass one of our public boating courses. Thanks to everyone that made time to instruct and assist with these events.

Fun for Kids

When it is raining out and your kids are looking for "something to do," you can encourage them to check out the USPS website for kids at www.usps4kids.org.

Sea Vester, a seagull fashionably decked out in a lifejacket, greets kids on the home page. Inside, there are links to games and tips related to the world of safe boating.

The games are designed to be educational and fun, and to encourage safe adventures on the water. They are appropriate for younger kids, and include coloring, puzzles, and word searches.



In addition, for older kids and adults that want to be sure their boat doesn't escape a mooring or float, they have a great section that describes a variety of knots. The site describes the Anchor Bend, Bowline, Cleat Hitch, Clove Hitch, Figure Eight Stopper, Round Turn and Two Half Hitches, Square Knot in appropriate detail.

As the website points out, it's great to WaterSmart from the Start!

Hold the Date!

Please note your May calendars now for May 30, 2008, the Friday evening following the Memorial Day Weekend. Dave Graham, a Corinthian Yacht Club member, is once more planning a banner start to another great summer of boating for MSPS members in the form of a delicious dinner meeting at the Corinthian. After our meal, Dave has arranged for a most interesting speaker, Steve Gagin, who has completed a dive to RMS TITANIC in the cold Atlantic depths and will give us a fascinating presentation regarding it.

We will send postcards by May 1 to all members with all the details of the meeting, including reservation information and menu selections. This should be a most enjoyable evening, and a great opportunity to renew boating acquaintances and make new ones!

March 13, MSPS meeting photos

Photos by Elizabeth Wolfe



Claire Gerrish helps Dan Himes choose a raffle option



Clint Gerrish, Jack Connelly, and Mark Cohen enjoy chowder and salad



Lee and Joe Henson listen intently to Ed Wolfe's talk on "catching fish"

In Memoriam: Tim Whiting

Tim Whiting, a long time member of Marblehead Sail and Power Squadron, died on Jan 31 at age 80; he joined USPS in 1963. Tim always volunteered to teach the marline spike seminar as well as sections of the Squadron Boating Course. He also was a volunteer on the Friendship and on the Half Moon, a replica of explorer Henry Hudson's 17th-century vessel.

The crew of the Friendship in Salem held a "cockbilling" ceremony on Sunday, Feb 17 to honor Tim. This is a nautical ceremony to honor a fallen shipmate. In the ceremony the lower yards are cocked or tipped. The ceremony drew hundreds of Tim's friends. A celebration followed at Salem Beer Works.



MSPS members who attended the memorial service (left to right) Mark Cohen, Gin Osman, Steve Jerome, Jane Cooke, Jim Cooke, Dan Shea, Ed Wolf, Barbara Bedrossian, John Bedrossian



A crew member after playing the fife during the "cockbilling" ceremony.



The "Cockbilling" of the lower yard with the ensign at half mast. (piper in the foreground)

Seamanship Course and Cruise Planning Course start in April

Register now for the Seamanship and Cruise Planning courses in April.

If you are interested in the upcoming Seamanship or Cruise Planning classes, send Robere Sant Fournier, P an email at seafriendship1@verizon.net, or give him a call.

Seamanship is typically the first course for a new member. Students learn about boat handling, anchoring, mooring, rafting, emergencies on the water, and marlinspike. This course includes a supplemental text, "One-Minute Guide to the Nautical Rules of the Road," to give the student a solid base, explaining what the rules are and what they mean.

Cruise Planning is designed for members who plan to cruise for just a day or for a year—in either a sail or powerboat—and covers such topics as preparation and planning; equipment, chartering, crew, provisioning, communications, and emergencies. A manual is included which provides a twelve-month cruise planning timeline.

Photos from the Annual Meeting and Change of Watch



Member Profile: Shawna Gauthier

Hi, my name is Shawna Gauthier. I hold one of the Member at Large positions on the MSPS executive committee. This is my second year in this position. I have been an active MSPS member for almost three years.

We, my husband Jon and I, were introduced to the MSPS due to our interest in taking the Weather course a couple of years ago. You see, recently we have sold our home here in Marblehead, and almost everything we own, bought a Formosa 51' ketch (s/v Beausoleil) so that we can take off this fall to begin a five year cruise all over the world.

We haven't always been sailors. I grew up in the mountains of New Mexico and Jon grew up hunting and fishing in the swamps of Louisiana. My father always had small power boats so we could water ski on the lakes in NM and TX.

Jon and I moved to CT in 1996 where we were introduced to our true (unknown) passion, sailing. We bought a 28' Mariner sloop (s/v Moondrifter) and learned how to sail. We moved to Marblehead in 2001 where I found another calling – racing! To mention a few of my racing highlights, I competed in the Marblehead to Halifax Ocean Race several times, I placed second as skipper in the NOODS in 2006 and 2007, I crewed on the winning "W" 76' boat in NY harbor this past October, and I have held a Jib Trim position on a J30 for the local Wednesday night series for several years now (we actually do pretty well!). I try to race as often as I can.

To become a more experienced sailor, and prepare for our new adventure, I signed on for multiple boat deliveries on all different types and sizes of sail boats. Halifax, Nova Scotia to Bar Harbor, ME, Annapolis, MD to Marblehead (both times outside Long Island – once double handed), Bermuda to Marblehead, and most recently Bermuda to Antigua. I have to say, sailing from Bermuda to Antigua in a 25kt N/NE breeze on a



Jon and Shawna Gauthier

57' classic sailing vessel is quite thrilling! It is amazing to look up at the stars on a clear night several hundred miles off shore and try to make out the constellations. We even cooked up a few of the flying fish that landed on board, trying to emulate Joshua Slocum (several people on board were reading his book – Sailing Around the World Alone).

Our plan was to take off over a year ago, but we did buy a boat built in 1979 that had a few more issues than we expected. So, Beausoleil is in the last stages of her refit here in MA. We have a new engine, new genset, new fuel tanks, new prop and prop shaft, re-glassed rudder, all new instruments, and is now being completely rewired (AC/DC). The MSPS Marine Electronics course really helped me to understand more about the last task.

I highly recommend taking the MSPS courses, even if you have been boating for many years. In addition to the courses mentioned above, I have



Beausoleil under sail

Member Profile: Shawna Gauthier (cont.)

completed the Navigation, Cruise Planning and Seamanship courses. Each of these courses provided valuable content and materials that we will take with us on our journey. There is always so much more to learn!

I would like to encourage you to get involved with your MSPS organization. Attend the well planned seminars, sign up for the courses and take advantage of the free Vessel Safety Checks. I look forward to sharing more about our travels and adventures with you, the MSPS members, in the future.

~Sail On~
Shawna Gauthier


Member Notes

Looking for crew? Interested in finding other boaters to share interests or ideas with you? Need a recommendation for a new gadget? Got a used gadget to give away or sell? Have some advice to share with others?

Post your message to other members in this spot! Send your Member Notes to janetg@theatriumdesign.com for inclusion in the next Head Lines.

Thank you to our Friends of MSPS:

To all our friends and shipmates in MSPS,
We wish you all —
Fair winds,
Calm seas,
Safe passages, and endless
Warm and Rose-colored sunsets.
Cathy Mae Tomasello and Al Goldstein, P



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www.marblehead-usps.org

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Upcoming Events: Mark your calendar

March

13 General Meeting

April

5 How to Read a Chart Seminar

7 Seamanship Class Begins

8 Cruise Planning Begins

10 Instructor Development

17 General Meeting

May

30 Squadron Dinner Meeting

Head Lines Boosters

Alexander Falk

Robert Sant Fournier

Howard M. Knight

Susan & Brian Schanning

Joan Thayer

Skip Whittaker

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